

# 1 EPA



EcoPurchasing means  
considering attributes  
such as



recycled content  
toxicity  
reusability  
durability  
repairability



before you buy  
a product.

## 1996 Buy-Recycled Series Park and Recreation Products

**K**ids are playing on them, parents are using them to get fit—even President Clinton is jogging on one at the White House. They're running tracks and playground surfaces made from old tires and recovered plastic. More and more universities, schools and day care centers, military bases, and government agencies are buying these recycled-content products because they are readily available and meet performance standards.



To make it easier to buy recycled, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG). The CPG identifies seven categories of items, including park and recreation products. Federal, state, or local agencies or government contractors that use appropriated federal funds should now purchase these products with recycled content. And to help you do this, EPA issued a nonregulatory companion piece called the Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN). The RMAN recommends recycled-content levels, expressed as ranges, that you can use when making purchasing decisions. EPA also compiled product lists covering the seven product categories, including park and recreation products (see the back page of this fact sheet).

Buying recycled-content park and recreation products is as easy as taking a walk in the park. And when you buy recycled, you're also helping to support recycling businesses and protecting the environment.



## What Is The CPG?

**The CPG  
requires  
federal  
agencies to  
give  
preference to  
items made  
from  
recovered  
materials.**

**A**s recycling continues to grow, it is more important than ever to find buyers for these collected materials. That's why President Clinton signed Executive Order 12873 in October 1993, calling for an increase in the federal government's use of recycled-content products. Developed in response to the Executive Order, the CPG requires that federal agencies give preference to items made from recovered materials—which in turn will help support recycling markets and allow recycling to continue to expand.

Issued in May 1995, the CPG designates 19 new products (and incorporates five previously designated items) in seven product categories that procuring agencies are required to begin purchasing with recycled content. (A procuring agency is any federal, state or local agency or government contractor that uses appropriated federal funds to purchase products.) If your agency spends more than \$10,000 per year on a product designated in the CPG, you are required to purchase it with the highest recycled-content level practicable. The CPG also applies to lease contracts covering designated items.

Your agency must develop an affirmative procurement program (or modify its existing program) to incorporate buy-recycled requirements for designated products by May 1, 1996. This might involve reviewing your specifications for the various products and eliminating provisions that might pose a barrier to their procurement (such as aesthetic requirements unrelated to product performance). As soon as the program is in place, your agency should begin following the guidelines for purchasing designated products whenever practicable.

The CPG acknowledges, however, that specific circumstances might arise that could preclude the purchase of products made with recovered materials. Under the CPG, you may choose to purchase designated items that do not contain recovered materials if you determine that 1) the price of a given item made with recovered materials is unreasonable; 2) there is inadequate competition (not enough sources of supply) for the item; 3) unusual and unreasonable delays would result from obtaining the item; or 4) the item does not meet your agency's reasonable performance specifications.

# How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Park & Recreation Products?

To help agencies comply with the buy-recycled requirements, EPA also issued its nonregulatory RMAN recommendations designed to make it as easy as possible to comply with the CPG. The RMAN recommends recycled-content levels to look for when purchasing the park and recreation products shown in the chart below. Following the RMAN's recommended levels will help ensure that your purchases meet the CPG requirements.

Rather than just one level of recycled content, the RMAN recommends ranges that reflect actual market conditions. The recommendations are based on extensive market research to identify recycled-content products that are commercially available, priced competitively, and meet buyers' quality standards.

The RMAN recommends recycled content ranges that reflect actual market conditions.



## RMAN Levels for Park & Recreation Products

Park & Recreation Product <sup>1</sup>	Recovered Material Content <sup>2</sup>
Playground Surfaces Plastic or Rubber.....	90–100% (postconsumer)
Running Tracks Plastic or Rubber.....	90–100% (postconsumer)

1 Federal agency installations of these products must comply with applicable state or local construction codes, as well as standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2 Content levels are based on the dry weight of the raw materials, exclusive of any additives such as adhesives, binders, or coloring agents.

# How Can I Get More Information?



## Information Available from EPA

The following publications on buying recycled and the CPG are available through the RCRA Hotline. To order, call 800 424-9346 (or 800 553-7672 for the hearing impaired). In Washington, DC, the number is 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323. The RCRA Hotline is open from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST.

- ❖ **Federal Register** notices establishing the CPG (60 FR 21370/EPA530-Z-95-006) and the RMAN (60 FR 21386/EPA530-Z-95-007), May 1, 1995.
- ❖ **Parks and Recreation Products Containing Recovered Materials** (EPA530-B-95-007), June 1995. Lists manufacturers and suppliers of playground surfaces and running tracks containing recovered materials. (Each listing is based on information provided by the manufacturer and does not constitute an endorsement by EPA.)
- ❖ **EPA Issues Comprehensive Procurement Guideline** (EPA 530-F-95-010). This four-page fact sheet provides general information about the CPG and the development of affirmative procurement programs.

These documents also are available on EPA's Public Access Server on the Internet ([gopher.epa.gov](http://gopher.epa.gov)). For the text of *Federal Register* notices, choose: **Rules, Regulations, and Legislation; Waste Programs; EPA Waste Information-GPO; and Year/Month/Date**. This fact sheet, the technical support documents, and the product availability lists are available under **EPA Offices and Regions; Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response; Office of Solid Waste; Nonhazardous Waste; and Procurement**.



## Other Sources of Information

- ❖ **Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing E.O. 12873**. This guide provides detailed information on establishing and implementing affirmative procurement plans. It is available without charge from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, 401 M Street, SW. (Mail Code 1600), Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202 260-1297. Fax: 202 401-9503.
- ❖ **Recycled Rubber Products Catalog**. This catalog lists products manufactured from recovered rubber and provides information on how to obtain them. For more information, contact the Scrap Tire Management Council, 1400 K Street, NW., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 202 682-4880. Fax: 202 682-4854.
- ❖ **The Official Recycled Products Guide**. This directory lists more than 5,000 manufacturers and distributors of recycled-content products. For more information, contact the Recycling Data Management Corp., P.O. Box 577, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Phone: 800 267-0707.
- ❖ **U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)**. GSA publishes various supply catalogs, guides, and schedules for products available through the Federal Supply Service. For copies of the following two documents and other publications, contact GSA, Centralized Mailing List Service (7CAFL), 4900 Hemphill St., P.O. Box 6477, Ft. Worth, TX 76115. Phone: 817 334-5215. Fax: 817 334-5227.
  - ❖ **Park and Outdoor Recreational Equipment, Federal Supply Schedule Group 78, Part 1, Schedule C, Classes 7830**. Lists a variety of park and recreation products available for purchase.
  - ❖ **Environmental Products Guide**. This guide is designed to help procurement officials identify environmentally preferable products and services. It contains nearly 3,000 items, including many recycled-content products.
- ❖ **National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO)**. NASPO's Windows-based *Database of Recycled Commodities* (DRC) includes information from states on their recycled product procurements. Data includes product distributors, manufacturers, recycled and postconsumer content, and other information. Contact: Linda Carroll, NASPO, 167 West Main Street, Suite 600, Lexington, KY 40507. Phone: 606 259-0959 or 606 254-7979. Fax: 606 231-0262.
- ❖ **National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP)**. NIGP maintains a library of product specifications and sample bid documents for both virgin- and recycled-content products. It also offers procurement training workshops for members. For more information, contact: Fuad Abu-Taleb, 11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 22091. Phone: 703 715-9400 x 41. Fax: 703 715-9897.
- ❖ **National Association of Counties (NACo)**. NACo can provide sample county procurement ordinances and distributes buy-recycled information. For more information, contact: Naomi Friedman, Research Associate for Recycling, 440 First Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202 942-4262. Fax: 202-737-0480 or 393-2630.
- ❖ **Buy Recycled Business Alliance**. The Alliance includes over 1,500 companies and organizations committed to increasing their use of recycled-content products and materials in their day-to-day operations. The Alliance offers educational materials, a quarterly newsletter, and product-specific guides. Public purchasing entities can join for free. For more information, contact: Phil Bailey, Director of Market Development, National Recycling Coalition, 1727 King Street, Suite 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720. Phone: 703 683-9025. Fax: 703 683-9026.



*In addition, contact your state solid waste agency for information about local and regional businesses that produce or distribute recycled-content products.*